



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

May 2008

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



A dog doesn't have to worry about problems at the office or the headaches of running a household, but man's best friend can still find himself a victim of excess stress that's harmful to his health. A dog whose health and energy are depleted by stress can become run down and more open to infection from parasites, bacteria or viruses.

Car travel, a long stay at home, a confrontation with another dog, loud noises, are examples of stress situations in a dog's life.

Diet alone is not enough to keep a dog fit to withstand stress. Veterinarians say dog owners must see to it that a dog lives within an orderly schedule with regular feedings, fresh water and exercise.

Dogs, home alone while people are at work become bored and anxious and are prone to destructive chewing, barking and pet eliminating.

Some ideas to create a happy safe environment while you are away:

1. Muffle sounds - turn on the radio or TV to filter out sounds.
2. Set boundaries - use a crate or confine your dog to a dog-proofed area of your home.
3. Stash a handful of treats around the house as you leave. You first must teach the dog to find the treat in clear view and heap praise each time he finds one.
4. Say goodbye with a special toy. A cong toy stuffed with kibble, peanut butter or cheese is a good choice.
5. Try to have a friend or neighbor stop by while you are at work or hire a professional dog sitter to walk your dog.
6. Arise early and take your dog for a brisk walk and play with his favorite toy or frisbee.
7. Dogs love to hear the sound of their owner's voice, so you could tape a family gathering and set the tape recorder on a timer for the dog.
8. Avoid guilt filled goodbyes or animated hellos. Make your exits and entrances low-key. When you return, spend a few minutes reviewing voice messages before greeting your dog.

Old Friends (Continued)

With summer approaching and people thinking of vacations, check out boarding facilities early. Be sure it is clean, does not smell like a chemical factory, and will it give your dog ample exercise and emotional support to offset the stress while you are away. If you have a young dog, it may be a good idea to accustom him to a kennel when he is young so it is less stressful as he gets older.

Remember, "Learn to think like a dog". The dog looks to the human for leadership, safety, and security.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (April 1, 2008)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of STDTC was called to order by President connie Cuff, with 22 members present.

It was discussed that the next time Ray Ramos comes to a training class there will be a sign up sheet and we will be split up into groups. Time will consist of 1/2 hour training and 1/2 hour discussion, there will be 2 groups so he can better help those that need it most. You should be prepared with questions to ask Ray. This visit will not occur until we are back at the Marina.

Sherry Carpenter is writing info for us on her Blog. You can access her blog from a link on our website.

Awards were given out to all who recently passed there CGC and/or TDI evaluations.

It was also discussed about shipping items to War Dogs. Items such as Kong Rubber chews and Rope Chews would be great.

Upcoming TDI events

Nifty after 50 (Since Canceled)

Mt Carmet Lions Club Street Fair Saturday May 10 at 1:45

Sherry's Corner

by Sherry Carpenter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 10, 2008

Contact: Daisy Okas

Phone: 212-696-8343

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB CAUTIONS OWNERS: PET THEFT ON THE RISE

-- Dog Owners and Breeders Advised to Keep Dogs Safe at Home and on the Road --

New York, NY – The American Kennel Club® is warning pet owners and breeders about an alarming rise in dog thefts in recent months. From parking lots to pet stores and even backyards, more dogs are disappearing. In the first three months of 2008, the AKC has tracked more than 30 thefts from news and customer reports, versus only ten for all twelve months of 2007.

Media reports have chronicled the escalation of these “dog-nappings” from all around the country. Incidents have included armed robbers entering a breeder’s home, tiny puppies being stuffed into purses at pet stores and most recently, purebred pets being snatched from cars in parking lots and even shelters.

“The value of pets in people’s lives has been on the rise for a long time and now we are seeing thieves trying to capitalize on this. Whether they seek to resell the dog, collect a ransom or breed the dogs and sell their offspring, thieves seem to be attuned to the increased financial and emotional value pets have in our lives,” said AKC spokesperson Lisa Peterson. “Losing a treasured family pet is devastating to the owner.”

“Criminals look for weaknesses and exploit them. They know pets can’t protect themselves, so that means owners need to be alert,” said Lt. John Kerwick, a law enforcement K-9 handler and the President of the U.S. Police Canine Association, Region 7. “Be wary of anyone who approaches you and asks too many questions about your dog or where you live. This is a red flag that they may be out to snatch your pet.”

Peterson added that “These ‘dog-nappers’ are misguided and naïve. They’re stealing living beings, not jewelry that can be pawned. Plus, it’s unlikely that they can sell the dogs for high prices without proper registration papers, and these inept criminals are not realistically going to collect a ransom. Caring for a dog -- and especially breeding -- is a time consuming endeavor that requires a lot of knowledge. Thieves will find themselves with a frightened and confused animal that needs a lot of care.”

The AKC offers the following advice to prevent your “best friend” from being a target of a crime:

At Home

- Don’t let your dog off-leash – Keeping your dog close to you reduces the likelihood it will wander off and catch the attention of thieves. A Saint Bernard that had wandered away from his owner in Nebraska was snatched up right off the road.
- Don’t leave your dog unattended in your yard – Dogs left outdoors when no one is home for long periods of time can be potential targets, especially if you live in a rural area and the fenced-in yard or dog runs are visible from the street.

Sherry's Corner (Continued)

- Keep purchase price to yourself – If strangers approach you to admire your dog during walks, don't answer questions about how much the dog cost or give details about where you live.
- Breeders need to be aware of home visits by potential puppy buyers – Criminals posing as would be “puppy buyers” have visited breeder homes to snatch dogs, while other homes have been burglarized when the owner was away. From Yorkies in Los Angeles to Bulldogs in Connecticut, thieves have targeted young puppies of these highly coveted breeds.

On the Road

- Never leave your dog in an unattended car, even if it's locked – Even if you are gone for only a moment, an unlocked car is an invitation for trouble. Also leaving expensive items in the car such as a GPS unit or laptop will only invite thieves to break and possibly allow the dog to escape.
- Don't tie your dog outside a store – This popular practice among city dwelling dog owners can be a recipe for disaster. Reports have surfaced of such thefts in Manhattan. If you need to go shopping, patronize only dog-friendly retailers or leave the dog at home.
- Be vigilant when entering or leaving establishments or venues catering to dogs such as grooming salons, veterinarians, doggie day care or hotels – Be aware of your surroundings, such as slow moving vehicles, or people watching you and your dog. Carry pepper spray as a precaution and, if possible, don't walk alone late at night or stay in a well lit area.

Recovery

- Protect your dog with microchip identification – Collars and tags can be removed so make sure you have permanent ID with a microchip. Keep contact information current with your recovery service provider. Several pets have been recovered because of alert people scanning and discovering microchips. For more information and to enroll your pet in a 24 hour recovery service visit www.akccar.org.
- If you suspect your dog has been stolen – Immediately call the police / animal control in the area your pet was last seen.
- Have fliers with a recent photo ready to go if your dog goes missing – Keep a photo of your dog in your wallet or on an easily accessible web account so that you can distribute immediately if your pet goes missing.

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The American Kennel Club, founded in 1884, is a not-for-profit organization which maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world and oversees the sport of purebred dogs in the United States. The AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Along with its nearly 5,000 licensed and member clubs and its affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. More than 20,000 competitions for AKC-registered purebred dogs are held under AKC rules and regulations each year including conformation, agility, obedience, rally, tracking, herding, lure coursing, coonhound events, hunt tests, field and earthdog trials. Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Companion Animal Recovery and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit www.akc.org.

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The United States Police Canine Association, Region 7, To unite in a common cause all law enforcement agencies utilizing the services of the canine as an aid in the prevention and detection of crime. www.uspca7.org

Breed of the Month

Great Dane

submitted by Connie Cuff

The Great Dane, with its powerful form, dignified expression and elegant coat, may have an intimidating appearance, but few breeds are as gentle and sensitive. Danes either lean their body against you or they push on you until they are on your lap. They just want you to give them love.

They bond strongly with their families and commonly experience separation anxiety when left alone.

The Dane's sensitivity makes them a perfect therapy dog. They are easy to pet and can lay their heads on the bed. Children love Danes and they make excellent family dogs.

Although their name suggests Danish origin, they were actually refined as boar-hunting dogs in Germany where they are still known as Deutsch Dogge (German Mastiff).

Great Danes tend to be sedentary as adults but puppies need constant supervision and plenty of outlets for their high energy. Puppies grow at an exceptional rate and proper nutrition is crucial. Using an extra large crate is the best way to keep a Great Dane puppy safe when supervision isn't possible.

Danes were bred to be working dogs, so they can be territorial and often protect their property and family.

The biggest downside is the breed's life span, typically 7-8 years. Their health problems are bloat, cardiomyopathy, autoimmune disease, hip dysplasia, and deafness in white dogs (not an acceptable color according to the breed standard).

Although Danes are less showy and graceful than some working dogs, their size and varied coloration make them an impressive entry in any show ring. Those with the right attitude are likely to excel.

Most people who own a Dane are always going to own a Dane, and that's one thing that makes this breed so special. (We are happy to have Moses with us, who is owned by Sally Biddinger, and he is a therapy dog).



Both pesticides, plants can pose danger to pets

from Pottsville Republican & Herald

Gardens are beautiful, but underneath that beauty lurks real dangers that could kill your four-legged friends.

These dangers come in the form of pesticides and fertilizers, flowers, vegetables and fruits. A little knowledge about what is and isn't pet friendly can save the life of your four-legged friend down the road.

When buying and using pesticides and fertilizers, read the labels and follow the manufacturer's directions. Keep in mind that pesticides and fertilizers, read the labels and follow the manufacturer's directions. Keep in mind that pesticides and fertilizers can linger for days or weeks after the initial application, thereby causing extended exposure.

Newer products carry toxicity warning and there are chemical-free products on the market today. A new variety of coleus (dark green foliage and lavender leaves) is also available, which can be planted around vegetable and flower gardens. Its pungent odor will turn off dogs and cats, and as long as the leaves are not crushed, it will not bother humans.

For a safe alternative to pesticides, use plain old water. Spider mites, aphids or thrips are easy to dislodge with water, and after a day or two, they can be washed away. For a more serious problem, apply a teaspoon of fish soap to a gallon of water with a garden sprayer.

For fertilizer, use recycled kitchen and yard waste—it's free and readily available.

Some plants that are considered toxic are: Aloe, Avocado, Clematis, Coco bean shell mulch, Daffodil, Dieffenbachia (irritating to pets and people), Lily of the Valley, Nightshade, Oleander, Tulip, Yew (Japanese yew), Yucca.

Some non-toxic plants are: Acorn squash, African violet, Banana, Butternut, Camellia, Garden marigold, Hen and chickens fern, Irish moss, Mapleleaf begonia, Wild hyacinth.

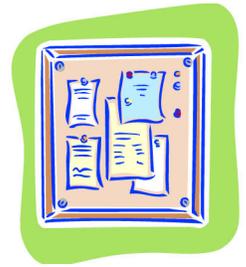
While most fruits and vegetables pose few toxic hazards, there are some exceptions. Garlic, onions and cloves all contain compounds that can cause anemia, if ingested. Tomatoes and potatoes contain alkaloids that can cause nervous disorders and severe digestive upset. The leafy portion of rhubarb contains oxalic acid, which can crystallize in the kidneys, causing severe damage. Fruits, such as apples, plums, cherries, apricots and peaches, all contain seeds that have toxic chemicals and can cause fatal seizures if digested.

Here are some other hints that may prove helpful:

- If your dog chews on the sprinkler nozzle, put a coat of Vicks Vapour Rub on it. Dogs hate the taste and it is water resistant. You may need to repeat the application every couple of months.
- Try motion detection sprinkler systems. This will hopefully deter dogs as well as cats and other animals.
- To stop dogs from digging in the same place, bury their waste in the hole and cover it. They won't dig there again.
- For yellow areas in your yard that result from waste, douse them with water. It doesn't have to be done right away. Later on is OK, too.
- Cover your flower bed or garden with chicken wire or some sort of mesh covering to stop cats from digging around. Also try lemon or orange peels.



Notes and Notices



I wish to thank Cindy Cardennis for making copies of articles she has found on the internet for our class.

Also, thanks to everyone who brought dogs into the Selinsgrove Center to visit with the residents. They really enjoy seeing the dogs. We will start our visits again when we return to the Center in the fall.

I still need some volunteers for our demo at the Mt. Carmel Lions Club Fair on Saturday, May 10th at 1:45 pm. They enjoy our visit and we do receive a donation for coming. There are crafts and good food which makes the trip worthwhile.

We will be completing our new membership list with e-mails and phone numbers. Please have dues paid and up-dated shot records by June 1 or you will be removed from the e-mail list. Our club insurance covers our members when training at the Selinsgrove Center and the Marina.

It was with much regret that I pulled out from our visit to the Columbia Mall for “Nifty After 50”. In order to be there our club would have to pay \$35 to our insurance company for being at the Mall. Also the Mall asked me to sign a waiver which would make me responsible for the dogs and handlers. I explained to the Mall manager that we were covered by TDI insurance but he said this was unacceptable.

We are now looking forward to starting our classes at the Marina which begins May 13th. Since we are dealing with weather, e-mails will be sent if time allows, or you can check the announcement section of the website, or call me before making the trip.

Sherry Carpenter has been doing a wonderful job with a blog on our website. We thank her for providing us with valuable information which we may not have read about. Please keep checking as she does change it periodically.

With the high price of gas, I realize it may be difficult for people to make some therapy visits. I try to schedule dates in different areas so people living near those facilities can make them. I do appreciate the time you give in helping me continue pet therapy.

Congratulations to Katie Davis and Zeus, for passing the CGC test.

Welcome new members Jeannine Brouse, Betty and Ray Cook and Cindy Purdy.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

May 7 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
May 8 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm
May 10 (Sat)	Lions Club Street Fair 4th & Oak St., Mt. Carmel (directions on website)	1:45 pm
May 12 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00 am
May 13 (Tues)	Classes begin at Marina Beginners Regular Class	6:15 pm 7:00 pm
May 14 (Wed)	White Deer Elementary Watsonstown Christian Academy	9:00 am 10:00 am
May 15 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00 pm 1:45 pm 2:15 pm
May 21 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
May 22 (Thurs)	Grandview Nursing Home, Danville	6:45 pm
May 27 (Tues)	Medium Security, Allenwood (Badged & memo members)	12:00 pm
May 29 (Thurs)	Geisinger Health South	2:00 pm
June 2 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00 am
June 4 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
June 5 (Thurs)	Manor Care, Sunbury	6:45 pm

Newsletter coordinator: **Brandon Pastuszek**
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Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

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April 2008

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May 2008

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June 2008

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy) ■ 10:00 AM Sunbury YMCA (Demo) ■ 6:00 PM Bucknell University (TDI Only)	29 ■ 12:00 PM FCI Medium Security Allentown (Badged Members)	30 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	1 ■ 6:45 PM Buffalo Valley	2	3
4	5	6	7 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods ■ 10:45 AM Cancelled – Nifty After Fifty (Demo)	8 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	9	10 ■ 1:45 PM Lions Club St. Fair (Demo)
11	12 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	13 ■ 6:15 PM Beginners Classes Start – Marina ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Classes Resume – Marina	14 ■ 9:00 AM White Deer Elementary ■ 10:00 AM Watson-town Christian ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	15 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:15 PM Sunshine Corners	16	17
18	19	20	21 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	22 ■ 6:45 PM Grandview Nursing Home	23	24
25	26 ■ 12:00 PM Medium Security, Allentown	27 ■ 12:00 PM Medium Security, Allentown	28 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	29 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	30	31